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**Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**
**Fifty-eighth session**
Vienna, 10-19 June 2015

# Draft report

## Chapter I

### Introduction

1. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-eighth session in Vienna from 10 to 19 June 2015.

2. At its 690th meeting, on 10 June, the Committee elected Rosa Olinda Vasquez Orozco (Ecuador) as First Vice-Chair of the Committee, to replace Diego Stacey Moreno (Ecuador), who had been elected for the office for the period 2014-2015.

3. The officers of the Committee were as follows:

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| *Chair*: | Azzedine Oussedik (Algeria) |
| *First Vice-Chair*: | Rosa Olinda Vasquez Orozco (Ecuador) |
| *Second Vice-Chair/Rapporteur*: | Xinmin Ma (China) |

### A. Meetings of subsidiary bodies

4. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-second session in Vienna from 2 to 13 February 2015, under the chairmanship of Elöd Both (Hungary). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/1088).

5. The Legal Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its fifty-fourth session in Vienna from 13 to 24 April 2015, under the chairmanship of Kai-Uwe Schrogl (Germany). The report of the Subcommittee was before the Committee (A/AC.105/1090).

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## B. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its opening meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Statement by the Chair.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its fifty-second session.
7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its fifty-fourth session.
8. Space and sustainable development.
9. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
10. Space and water.
11. Space and climate change.
12. Use of space technology in the United Nations system.
13. Future role of the Committee.
14. Other matters.
15. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

## C. Membership

7. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1472 A (XIV), 1721 E (XVI), 3182 (XXVIII), 32/196 B, 35/16, 49/33, 56/51, 57/116, 59/116, 62/217, 65/97, 66/71, 68/75 and 69/85 and decisions 45/315, 67/412 and 67/528, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was composed of the following 77 States: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

## D. Attendance

8. Representatives of the following [...] States members of the Committee attended the session: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam.

9. At its 690th meeting, on 10 June, the Committee decided to invite, at their request, observers for Angola, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Israel, Kuwait, Mauritania, Oman, Panama, Qatar, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Holy See, to attend its fifty-eighth session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

10. At its 691st meeting, on 10 June, the Committee decided to invite, at its request, the State of Palestine, to attend its fifty-eighth session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

11. At its 690th meeting, on 10 June, the Committee decided to invite, at the request of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the observer for that organization to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to invite, at the request of the European Union and the League of Arab States, the observers for those organizations to attend the session and to address it, as appropriate, on the understanding that it would be without prejudice to further requests of that nature and that it would not involve any decision of the Committee concerning status.

13. Observers for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) attended the session.

14. The session was attended by observers for the following intergovernmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere (ESO), European Space Agency (ESA), European Telecommunications Satellite Organization (EUTELSAT-IGO), Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET), International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), International Telecommunications Satellite

Organization (ITSO) and Regional Centre for Remote Sensing of North African States (CRTEAN).

15. The session was also attended by observers for the following non-governmental organizations with permanent observer status with the Committee: European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), International Astronautical Federation (IAF), International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), International Institute of Space Law (IISL), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW), Secure World Foundation (SWF), Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and World Space Week Association (WSWA).

16. A list of representatives of States members of the Committee, States not members of the Committee, United Nations entities and other organizations attending the session is contained in A/AC.105/2015/INF/1.

## E. General statements

17. Statements were made by representatives of the following States members of the Committee during the general exchange of views: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Statements were also made by the representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Panama on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. A statement was made by the representative of Luxembourg, together with the observer for the European Union, on behalf of the European Union. Statements were also made by the observers for El Salvador, Israel, Oman, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates. The observers for APSCO, CRTEAN, IAA, IAF, ISNET, ESA, ESO, ESPI, EUTELSAT-IGO, SGAC and SWF also made statements.

18. At the 690th meeting, the Chair delivered a statement highlighting the role played by the Committee and its Subcommittees as a unique global platform for enhancing the capacity of States to promote economic, social and cultural development through the use of space tools. He emphasized the need to: (a) foster the active participation in the Committee of each of its member States, from all geographical regions, and promote dialogue with its observer organizations; (b) advance the role of the Committee as the prime intergovernmental global platform for international cooperation in space activities; (c) strengthen the role of the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat in providing support for the orderly conduct of space activities; and (d) enhance the interrelationship between the Committee and coordination mechanisms at the regional and interregional levels as a means for the Committee to lead the way towards global space governance for the benefit of all humanity.

19. At the same meeting, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs made a statement in which she reviewed the work carried out by the Office during the previous year, including outreach activities and cooperation and coordination with

United Nations entities and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. She stressed the current unfavourable financial situation of the Office and highlighted the importance of the availability of financial and other resources for the successful implementation of the programme of work of the Office. The situation required addressing its human resources shortfall, and the Director called on Member States to consider supplementing the Office's regular budget with extrabudgetary resources, both in monetary form and in kind. The Director highlighted the role of the Office in discharging the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the United Nations treaties on outer space and in maintaining the Register on Objects Launched into Outer Space under the obligations set out in the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space. The Register was the Convention's core mechanism for creating transparency and building confidence in outer space activities. She also described the Office's work in coordinating activities among United Nations entities in the areas of sustainable development, global health, emerging issues in commercial space transportation and regulatory aspects of small satellites as examples of the successful implementation of the mandate of the Office to lead the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space).

20. At its 693rd meeting, the Committee invited the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Yury Fedotov, to make a statement. He highlighted that addressing the challenges to humanity and sustainable development on Earth were closely linked to the Committee's agenda, including protecting the space environment and securing the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, and that the importance attached by the international community to promoting international cooperation on those issues was increasing substantially. The Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs played an important role in that regard. The Director-General expressed his commitment to supporting the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in fostering the Committee as a unique global platform. He underscored that the development agenda required effective and innovative tools to support its implementation, including those offered by space science and technology applications.

21. The Committee welcomed Luxembourg as a new member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment was welcomed as the newest permanent observer to the Committee.

22. The Committee congratulated the United States on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope mission.

23. The Committee was honoured with the presence of the Soviet cosmonaut Alexey A. Leonov (Russian Federation), who addressed the Committee on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the first spacewalk performed by a human.

24. The Committee noted with satisfaction that 2015 also marked the tenth anniversary of the African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development, a regional conference to promote intra-African cooperation on the uses of space science and technology to support development in Africa.

25. The Committee also noted with satisfaction the tenth anniversary of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), and commended the outstanding work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, which had been serving as the executive secretariat of ICG since its establishment.

26. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Office had developed and launched its new website, which had been designed to better serve the Member States and to raise awareness of the work of the Office, and was a great improvement in terms of the design, navigation and access to information and multimedia additions.

27. The Committee observed a minute of silence to mark the passing in May 2015 of Yuri Kolosov (Russian Federation), who had been a long-standing delegate to the Committee and a dedicated contributor to the development of international space law.

28. The Committee noted with appreciation the holding of the following events on the margins of the session:

(a) Panel discussion on satellites and climate change, organized by France;

(b) "The Hubble Space Telescope, 25 years of cosmic discovery", lecture by Jennifer Wiseman, Senior Scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope, held at the Natural History Museum, Vienna;

(c) Special talk by Sandra Magnus, astronaut from the United States, on the subject of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics;

(d) Painting exhibition on China's space exploration: "Flying with the wings of art";

(e) ESPI evening event entitled "United States and European geospatial data policies: challenges of open data policy".

29. The Committee heard the following presentations:

(a) "Launching a new United Nations-Japan cooperation programme 'Kibo-CUBE': invitation to CubeSat deployment into orbit from the Japanese Experiment Module (Kibo) of the International Space Station", by the representative of Japan;

(b) "The Hubble Space Telescope: 25 years of cosmic discovery", by the representative of the United States;

(c) "The United States National Academy of Sciences and its space policy and programmatic advisory role", by the representative of the United States;

(d) "Simultaneous observed ionospheric disturbances and abnormal animal behaviour previous to increased seismic activity", by the representative of Brazil;

(e) "Thailand space technology advancement", by the representative of Thailand;

(f) "Lunar Mission One", by the representative of the United Kingdom;

(g) "World space week", by the observer for WSWA; and

(h) "SGAC: next generation perspectives from UNISPACE III to now", by the observer for SGAC.

30. The view was expressed that any launching activities by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea using ballistic missile technology and any activities related to its ballistic missile programme were a flagrant violation of international law, including Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013). The delegation expressing that view also stated that unlawful acts could not create rights. In that regard, the position by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his letter to the President of the Security Council dated 22 February 2013,[1] stating that the act of registration was a technical procedure under the Registration Convention and did not confer legality or legitimacy to the launch of 12 December 2012, was underscored. The delegation expressed the view that it was deplorable that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had abused the registration function of the United Nations under the Registration Convention to attempt to legitimize its ballistic missile-related programme as a peaceful space activity, including by notifying its national point of contact, the National Aerospace Development Administration, which was an alias of the Korean Committee for Space Technology, an entity listed in the sanctions list of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006).

31. The view was expressed that negotiations carried out thus far on the draft international code of conduct for outer space activities proposed by the European Union had been unproductive and even detrimental to the work of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The delegation expressing that view also considered that normative regulations impacting the wide range of issues relating to the safety of space operations should be handled through established practices within the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees.

32. The view was expressed that the draft international code of conduct promoted concepts that contradicted basic norms of international law, such as unauthorized supra-jurisdictional actions against foreign space objects based on indefinite motives. The process of consultations on the draft code had not proved to be successful, owing to a corporate style of behaviour on the part of the authors and co-sponsors of the document, who had demonstrated their reluctance to act in a way motivated by partnership and responsible management of the process of consultations and to take observations of invited participants into consideration and illuminate their concerns. The delegation expressing those views also considered that, before advancing a position on the right to self-defence in any international regulatory instrument, it would be important to achieve a shared understanding within the framework of the Committee concerning the legal basis and modalities for exercising such a right, as applied to outer space, and that a separate adoption of the draft international code of conduct, with its emphasis on matters related to conflicts in outer space, would mean reformatting space policy and setting a long-term negative trend in regulating the safety and security of space activities.

33. The view was expressed that the process of negotiating the draft international code of conduct should be continued in an inclusive and transparent manner in order to allow as wide a membership as possible. The delegation expressing that view

[1] S/2013/108.

considered that the draft international code of conduct should cover all space activities, civil and military, and that links should be established between the space and disarmament communities, in order to overcome the challenges that were faced by both of those communities and that threatened the safety and security of space activities.

### F. Adoption of the report of the Committee

34. After considering the various items before it, the Committee, at its [...] meeting, on [...] June 2015, adopted its report to the General Assembly containing the recommendations and decisions set out below.

## Chapter II

## Recommendations and decisions

### A. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

35. In accordance with paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 69/85, the Committee continued its consideration, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, including consideration of ways to promote regional and interregional cooperation and the role that space technology could play in the implementation of recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

36. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the same resolution, the Committee considered the broader perspective of space security and associated matters that would be instrumental in ensuring the safe and responsible conduct of space activities, as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities, with a view to identifying those recommendations that could, to the extent practicable, be adapted to and instrumental in ensuring the safety of space operations and the long-term sustainability of outer space activities in general.

37. The representatives of Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements under the item. During the general exchange of views, statements relating to the item were also made by other member States, the representative of Chile on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of Panama on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

38. The Committee heard the following presentations under the item:

(a) "The Italian contribution to space exploration", by the representative of Italy;

(b) "Space Security Index", by the representative of Canada.

39. The Committee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat entitled "Recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities: views of States members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (A/AC.105/1080 and Add.1 and 2);

(b) Working paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled "Achievement of a uniform interpretation of the right of self-defence in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations as applied to outer space as a factor in maintaining outer space as a safe and conflict-free environment and promoting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities" (A/AC.105/L.294).

40. The view was expressed that the Committee should begin to consider the legal basis for, and the modalities of, in a hypothetical case, the exercise of the right to self-defence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as applied to outer space; that Articles 2 and 51 of the Charter of the United Nations should be thoroughly analysed and interpreted in relation to outer space activities, with its complex system of maintenance of security and where potential conflicts of interest could lead to the emergence of extreme situations; and that such work, logically associated with the responsible conduct of space activities, would help States to reach an understanding and partnership with regard to establishing and sustaining a highly adaptive regulatory system that would adequately alleviate or avoid situations and problems that might cause conflicts in outer space.

41. The view was expressed that consideration by the Committee of the well-defined questions contained in document A/AC.105/L.294 would assist in better understanding the actions to be taken in reaction to conflict situations (or conflicts of interests) in outer space, which would be important in view of the tendency of space regulation operations — as seen in the national documents of some States — to respond to such conflicts with immediate actions, rather than through consultation mechanisms. The concept of pre-emptive defence in outer space, as defined in some national strategies, was not supported by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that a common understanding and position on the matters of the right of self-defence in outer space, if achieved in the Committee, could be presented to the General Assembly and Security Council.

42. Some delegations reaffirmed the commitment of their countries to the peaceful use and exploration of outer space and emphasized the following principles: universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development, as well as the equitable and rational use of outer space for the benefit of all humankind; non-appropriation of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by claim of sovereignty, use, occupation or any other means; non-militarization of outer space, which should never be used for the installation of weapons of any kind, and, as a common heritage of humankind, its strict use for the improvement of living conditions and peace among the peoples inhabiting our planet; international responsibility of States for their national space activities; and regional cooperation to promote space activities, as established by the General Assembly and other international forums.

43. Some delegations expressed the view that it was necessary to ensure the safe and responsible conduct of space activities and to identify effective tools that could potentially provide the Committee with new guidance, in a pragmatic manner and without prejudice to the mandates of other intergovernmental forums, through the development and implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures.

44. The view was expressed that the increase in the number of objects in Earth orbit, the diversification of assets and actors in space, the development of new capabilities and the increasing risk of collisions with space debris, including risks arising from a possible use of force in space, posed new challenges to the peaceful uses of outer space.

45. Some delegations expressed the view that the existing legal regime with respect to outer space was not adequate to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space or to address issues concerning the space environment, and that it was important to further develop international space law in order to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes. Those delegations were of the view that, in order to ensure that outer space was used peacefully and to prevent its militarization, the preparation of binding international legal instruments was necessary.

46. Some delegations expressed the view that, in order to maintain the peaceful nature of space activities and prevent the placement of weapons in outer space, it was essential for the Committee to enhance its cooperation and coordination with other bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament.

47. The view was expressed that the Committee had been created exclusively to promote international cooperation with respect to the peaceful uses of outer space and that disarmament issues were more appropriately dealt with in other forums, such as the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament. The delegation expressing that view was also of the view that no actions by the Committee were needed regarding the weaponization of outer space and that there was no scarcity of appropriate multilateral mechanisms under which disarmament could be discussed.

48. The Committee noted with satisfaction the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 68/50 on 5 December 2013 and took note of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/68/189) and the note by the Secretariat containing views of States members of the Committee on the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/1080 and Add.1 and 2).

49. The view was expressed that the achievement by the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference of consensus on a resolution on strengthening the role of ITU with regard to transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities was a result of the successful implementation of the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities.

50. The view was expressed that the Committee could have a role in reviewing the implementation of specific unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral

transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space, as well as in discussing new ones.

51. The Committee noted with satisfaction continuous developments in a number of cooperative endeavours that were being pursued at the international, regional and interregional levels by various actors, such as States and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and emphasized that such cooperation was essential for strengthening the peaceful uses of outer space and for assisting States in the development of their space capabilities. In that regard, the Committee noted the important role that bilateral and multilateral agreements played in promoting common space exploration objectives and cooperative and complementary space exploration missions.

52. Some delegations expressed the view that the United Nations was essential for strengthening and developing cooperation and collaboration among countries, in particular on scientific and space technology, and for maximizing space resources for common prosperity, security and the sustainability of outer space. The delegations expressing that view were also of the view that solid cooperation should enhance information-sharing and technical cooperation among countries in line with the principles of friendship, equal partnership and mutual respect.

53. The Committee noted with appreciation that the sixth African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development would be hosted by Egypt and would be held in Cairo in December 2015.

54. The Committee recalled the Pachuca Declaration, adopted by the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas, held in Pachuca, Mexico, from 15 to 19 November 2010, which had developed a regional space policy for the near future and also, inter alia, created an advisory group of space experts. The Committee noted that the pro tempore secretariat of the Sixth Space Conference of the Americas was continuing the implementation of the Pachuca Declaration. The Committee also noted that the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had expressed its willingness to host the next Space Conference of the Americas.

55. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the twenty-first session of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum had been successfully held from 2 to 5 December 2014 in Tokyo under the theme "Leap to the next stage: delivering innovative ideas and solutions". The Committee also noted that the twenty-second session would be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 1 to 4 December 2015, under the theme "Sharing solutions through synergy in space".

56. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the eighth meeting of the Council of APSCO had been held in Lahore, Pakistan, on 24 and 25 September 2014, at which the Council had approved a number of new projects, reviewed the progress being made on those approved earlier and agreed to hold its next meeting in 2015.

57. Some delegations expressed the view that the Committee played a notable role in advancing space cooperation and provided a unique forum for the exchange of information among States, and that there were tangible opportunities to enhance international cooperation, in keeping with the Committee's mandate.

58. The Committee agreed that, through its work in the scientific, technical and legal fields, as well as through the promotion of international dialogue and exchange of information on various topics relating to the exploration and use of

outer space, it had a fundamental role to play in enhancing transparency and confidence-building among States, as well as in ensuring that outer space was maintained for peaceful purposes.

59. The Committee recommended that at its fifty-ninth session, in 2016, consideration of the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes should be continued, on a priority basis.